Laboratory Precautions and Regulations

1. No eating or drinking in the laboratory.

2. Observe laboratory safety regulations; one should especially avoid viewing the laser beam directly or its specular reflections. NEVER, EVER LOOK INTO ANY LASER BEAM, no matter how low power you may think it is. Always wear safety goggles if instructed by instructor or teaching assistant. Consequently, be aware of other students when manipulating laser beams or positioning optical elements.

3. Be as careful as you can with optical components. They are delicate and expensive. Considerable care must be exercised when using these components; e.g. return components into the storage cabinet when not in use, instead of laying them down on the table where they could be easily damaged.

4. Never touch an optical surface with fingers; most high quality optical components are coated to increase or decrease their surface reflections. Fingerprint are destructive because the natural moisture of the skin contains acids and oils that chemically react with the coatings. In most cases it is impossible to remove fingerprints, although some success in removing them might be achieved if the contaminated surface is cleaned immediately using high quality lens cleaning tissue soaked with acetone or isopropanol.

5. Study experimental procedures and equipment manuals before beginning experiments. Do not exceed LIGHT INTENSITY ratings or VOLTAGE ratings.

6. Clean up the work area before leaving the laboratory.